REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-38 will remain pending.

The Examiner has made a minor objection to the drawing. In particular, the Examiner contends that the step "1000" shown in Figure 3 is not described in the specification. Accordingly, as indicated above, paragraph 0027 of the specification is being amended to include reference to step 1000.

The Examiner also has rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As indicated above, claim 16 is being amended to depend from claim 15, and therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection..

Turning to the more substantive rejection, claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,810,428 to Larsen et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, as discussed in more detail below, Applicant respectfully submits that the Larsen patent fails to teach or suggest that a user terminal is controlled to transmit transceiver status information *indicating that the transceiver is being controlled to not operate as a router and to refrain from retransmitting the wireless communication data.* Applicant further respectfully submits that the Larsen patent fails to teach or suggest that a user terminal is controlled to transmit the transceiver status information in response to a command from a person using the user terminal or a command received from the wireless communication network as recited in original dependent claims 9, 10, 22, 23, 34 and 35.

The details of the claimed embodiments of the present invention and the cited reference will now be discussed.

As discussed throughout the application, the present invention relates to a wireless communication network comprising a plurality of nodes which can be, for example, intelligent access points, routers, and user terminals. The embodiments of the present invention, in particular, provide a technique in which a user terminal can be controlled so that it does not operate as a router, and thus refrains from retransmitting data packets received from a user terminal that are addressed to a destination user terminal. The user terminal can be controlled to refrain from acting as a router to, for example, reserve its battery life, to avoid interference with other terminals, or for other reasons as discussed throughout the specification. As indicated above, this aspect of the embodiments of the present invention is being clarified in the independent claims. In particular, independent claims 8, 15, 21, 27 and 33 are being amended to recite that the transceiver of the user terminal is controlled to transmit transceiver status information indicating that the transceiver is being controlled to not operate as a router and to thus refrain from retransmitting the wireless communication data that the transceiver received and which is addressed to a destination user terminal. Independent claim 1 is being amended to recite that a controller of a user terminal prevents the transceiver of that user terminal from transmitting wireless communications data to another user terminal based on routing data indicating that that other user terminal is prohibited from operating as a router to route said wireless communications data to said destination user terminal.

The Larsen patent teaches a method of operating a multi-station network. In particular, as discussed in the Abstract and throughout the Larsen patent, a station can receive probing information to other stations to determine whether those other stations can receive a transmission

from that station. The Examiner contends that these features anticipate claims 1-38 for the reasons discussed in the Office Action.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Larsen patent fails to teach or suggest that a station can be affirmatively controlled to not operate as a router, and to transmit transceiver status information as discussed above. The Examiner contends in the Office Action that the Abstract and column 1, lines 40-45 and 64-66, column 2, lines 15-38, column 4 line 65 through column 5, line 2, column 16, lines 53-61 and column 25, lines 26-35 teach this feature. However, Applicant respectfully submits that at best, these sections of the Larsen patent teach that a station *may chose whether or not to communicate with another station based on information received from that other station.* However, as stated above, nowhere do these or any other passages of the Larsen patent teach or suggest that a station is controlled to not operate as a router, and to thus transmit transceiver status information indicating that its transceiver is being controlled so as not to retransmit data addressed to another station. Granted, upon receiving a "probe signal," a station in the Larsen system may transmit a response that includes certain information, such as the quality of communication between itself and another station. Nevertheless, nowhere does the Larsen patent teach or suggest that the response transmitted by a station includes information which indicates that the station is being controlled to not operate as a router. Accordingly, in the Larsen system, stations receiving the response may still chose to send data to the station issuing the response with the expectation that that station will be able to route the data to another station to which the data is addressed (i.e., the station will operate as a router). The stations in the Larsen system have no way in which to inform other stations that they are not operating as a router.

For all these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Larsen patent fails to anticipate the present invention even as defined in the amended independent claims. Accordingly, all claims should be allowable.

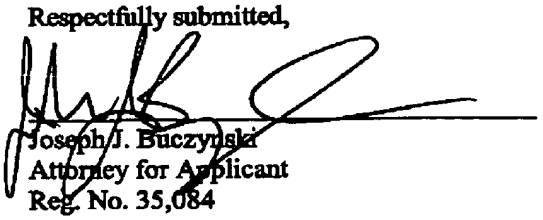
In addition, concerning the dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the Larson patent fails to teach or suggest that the transceiver of a user terminal is being controlled to refrain from this retransmission in response to a command received from a person using the user terminal or a command received from the wireless communication network, as recited in dependent claims 9, 10, 22, 23, 34 and 35. In particular, as discussed beginning at paragraph 0027, the user of the user terminal can enter a command to cause the user terminal to not operate as a router, or an operator can send the command over the wireless network to be received by that particular user terminal.

The Examiner contends that column 19, line 6-8 of the Larsen patent teach these features. However, Applicant respectfully submits that as described beginning at column 18, line 63, this section of the Larsen patent merely teaches that a station can send software update information to its neighbors. Nowhere does the Larsen patent teach or suggest that the software update information specifically indicates that the transceiver is to not operate as a router and thus refrain from retransmitting data that is addressed to a destination terminal. Accordingly, the Larsen patent fails to teach or suggest that the transceiver transmits this information in response to a command entered by a user of the station or from a command received over the communication network as recited in dependent claims 9, 10, 22, 23, 34 and 35.

Application No. 09/939,624
Amendment dated October 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 21, 2005

In view of the above, it is believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: October 20, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Attention Examiner: Matthew W. Genack, Art Unit 2645, Facsimile Number 571-273-8300, on the date shown below:

Dated: October 20, 2005

Lois Ann Borlase

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